GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:588
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
KEROSENE AGENCIES AT PANCHAYAT LEVEL
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural areas in the country are fully dependent on kerosene and its demand is not met; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to allot kerosene agencies at Panchayat level in order to resolve the said problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b): After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in thepetroleum sector with effect from1.4.2002, the Oil Marketing Companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up SKO-LDO dealerships in various parts of the country, including rural areas provided the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.